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Source: Google internal data, Global, 2026-02-27 to 2026-03-12; average uplift on Search text ads for non-Retail advertisers adopting with at least 30% of their Search text ads conversions or value coming from AI Max using the full feature suite (search term matching, text customization, and final URL expansion) or Performance Max campaigns.

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**EXTRA CURRICULAR**

Govt school students in lurch as teachers put on survey or data collection exercises and other govt assignments

PAGE 2

**TAXING ELOQUENT**

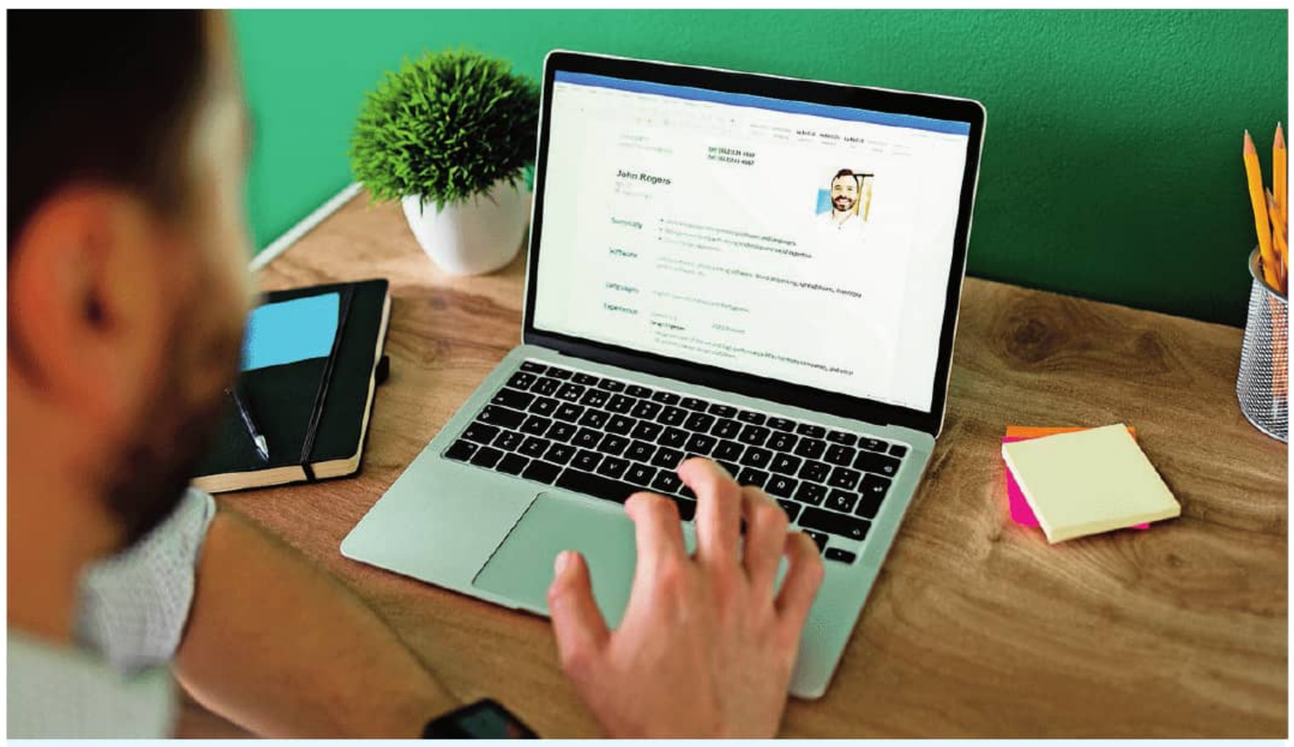
GBA achieves 44% of its annual property tax collection target already with Bengaluru East City Corporation taking the lead

PAGE 4

**Cybercriminals bait targets on job portals as under pressure to secure employment quickly, many trust attractive job offers that promise high salaries, flexible work arrangements, quick hiring, or work-from-home opportunities**

# WHEN JOB HUNTER BECOMES THE PREY

Scamsters try to move conversations away from reputed platforms to dodge safety checks and account verification



Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

When a Bengaluru-based engineering graduate landed a work-from-home job through LinkedIn, he felt that his dream had come true. The recruiter promised a lucrative salary, quick onboarding, and flexible hours. But within days of joining, he was asked to purchase equipment through a vendor recommended by the company.

He used his own money to get the equipment and a cheque was sent to reimburse him. When the cheque bounced, the dream quickly turned sour.

Social media platforms are abuzz about such job scams that are becoming increasingly common.

National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer Chetan Anand tells BM that he has helped three victims of job fraud whose accounts got hacked, restore access to their accounts. "Most are unaware of the recovery process and often realise they have been scammed only after losing access. Cyber criminals are increasingly using fake job opportunities on professional networking platforms to target students and job seekers," he said.

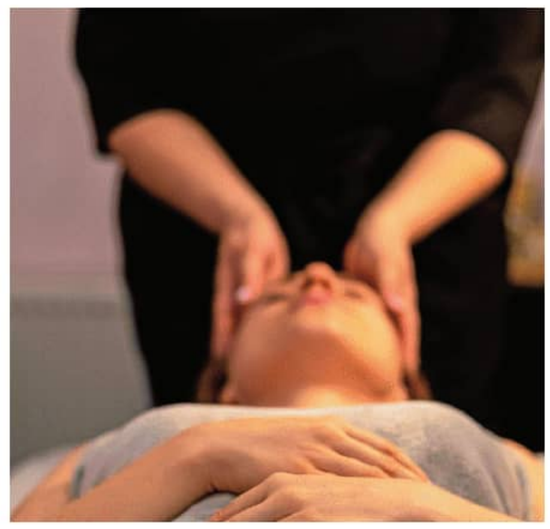
**"Genuine companies do not ask candidates to pay money, share bank details, buy gift cards, or transfer funds during the hiring process. Candidates should be cautious if a company asks them to buy work-from-home equipment through a specific vendor or link** —Chetan Anand, cybersecurity scholar

As more students and professionals rely on online platforms to find jobs, cybercriminals too make these their hunting grounds. Fresh graduates and job seekers are often under pressure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

# Get the massage?

No locked doors, separate entry for males and females and other conditions among Law Commission's recommendations on rules for spas, parlours



Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The city has several spas, unisex saloons, beauty parlours, gymnasiums and massage centres, but no law governs their functioning in the state. This lacuna has prompted the Law Commission of Karnataka to recommend to the state government that the statutes be amended and model bye-laws be made.

As of now the law that deals with the granting of licences, does not have a provision for licences for such establishments. "It may be possible to argue that Section 303(f) of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 which lists establishment and operation of commercial undertakings cover the activities of ayurvedic centres, spa, unisex spoons, beauty parlours and gymnasiums but there has to be express law for regulating the establishments where the said activities are taking place," Karnataka Law Commission's 67th report reads.

The Law Commission has recommended mandatory conditions for these establishments to get licences. The conditions are: Engaging in any form of sexual activity in the premises of the spa/massage centre is totally prohibited, male and female spa/massage centres shall be in different

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Trinket trove

Indian Artisans Bazaar, organised by Grand Flea Market, brings together talented artisans and entrepreneurs showcasing unique handmade products, traditional crafts, ethnic wear, home décor items, jewellery and lifestyle products.
**Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath;**
**When: Until June 14**

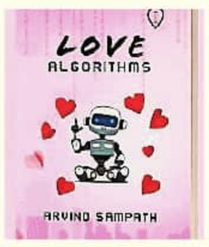
### 02 Emotional reboot

Recharge Room is hosting CTRL + ALT + CALM, a guided group therapy session aimed at helping participants understand anxiety and create healthier emotional balance through guided conversations, reflective exercises and more.
**Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;**
**When: June 13, 11 am**

### 03 Theatre unbound

Shurpanakhi, an experimental theatre production weaves together Odissi dance, theatre and Yakshagana to reimagine Shurpanakhi not as a demoness, but as a woman, exploring her story through movement and emotions.
**Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;**
**When: June 21, 3.30 pm, 7.30 pm**

### 04 Updating heartware




Atta Galatta is hosting an interaction with the author of Love Algorithms, exploring the book's inspiration, AI's role in human relationships and the expanding emotional space technology occupies in contemporary life.
**Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;**
**When: June 14, 3.30 pm**

### 05 Taste and trade

The 7th edition of Food Expo and 3rd edition of India Tea Coffee Expo will be inaugurated by Karnataka Minister for Food and Civil Supplies KH Muniyappa. Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry President Uma Reddy and others will also be in attendance.
**Where: Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre;**
**When: June 11, 11.30 am**

# Teachers are absent from class, so is learning

## With government school teachers deployed as Booth Level Officers for SIR process, educators argue that burden is falling on schools already struggling with staff shortages

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

As government schools across Bengaluru settle into the new academic year, a familiar problem has resurfaced. Teachers, instead of standing before blackboards, are set to spend hours on voter verification drives, surveys, data collection exercises and other government assignments, leaving students with fewer classroom hours and disrupted learning schedules.

The latest concern stems from the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls starting June 20, under which hundreds of government school teachers have been deployed as Booth Level Officers (BLOs). While the exercise aims to ensure that eligible citizens are not left out of voter lists, educators argue that the burden is once again falling on schools already struggling with staff shortages.

In several government schools across Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts, teachers say election-related duties have significantly reduced the time available for lesson planning, classroom teaching and student assessment. The problem is particularly acute in schools with limited staff strength, where even the temporary diversion of a few teachers can affect the entire timetable.

"We are expected to be teachers, counsellors, administrators and now field investigators. Most of our day is spent attending meetings, updating records and carrying out verification work. Students lose valuable learning time and we are the ones blamed when academic outcomes suffer," said Ananda Kumar, a government high school teacher.

Several schools are already facing issues due to declining student numbers, while parents increasingly opt for private institutions

**In several schools across Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts, teachers say election-related duties have significantly reduced time available for lesson planning, classroom teaching and student assessment**

The issue extends beyond voter list revision. Teachers in Karnataka have long been assigned responsibilities ranging from census operations and other surveys to welfare scheme verification and election management. Education experts say the cumulative impact of these duties has rarely been studied despite repeated complaints from the teaching community.

Sunanda Gowda, a teacher from a government primary school in Bengaluru, said the pressure becomes particularly intense at the start of the academic year. "June is when children need maximum attention. New admissions, bridge courses and foundational learning activities are planned during this period. Instead, we are being asked to spend hours outside school collecting voter-related information. It defeats the purpose of reopening schools," she said.

Teachers also point to the emotional and physical toll of such assignments. A woman teacher said she often receives instructions and review calls outside school hours. "We are told that classroom teaching should not be affected, but fieldwork, documentation and review meetings take time. Many of us have young children and family responsibilities. The expectation is that we somehow manage everything," she said.

Education activists warn that the consequences are likely to be felt most by students from economically weaker backgrounds who depend entirely on government schools. "Private schools are not losing teachers to election work. Government school children are effectively receiving fewer teaching hours. This creates an uneven playing field and widens existing learning gaps," said an education rights campaigner.

The concern comes at a time when the state is trying to improve enrolment and learning outcomes in government schools. Several schools have already faced consolidation due to declining student numbers, while parents increasingly opt for private institutions. Critics argue that repeatedly using teachers as the government's default workforce for non-academic tasks sends the wrong message about educational priorities.

For students returning to classrooms after the summer break, the expectation is simple: teachers should be teaching. "Across Bengaluru, many educators find themselves juggling voter rolls, surveys and administrative targets alongside lesson plans. Until a dedicated mechanism is created for such government exercises, schools may continue paying the price, one lost classroom hour at a time," said Anand Gowda, a parent.

# K'taka to roll out AI-ready indigenously developed PCs

Karnataka is set to deploy the first batch of 2,000 AI-ready KEO PCs across the state.

KEO is the indigenously developed AI-ready personal computers and is priced at Rs 18,999, an official statement said on Wednesday.

"The rollout marks a significant step in Karnataka's efforts to take artificial intelligence beyond Bengaluru and into rural libraries, schools and communities. In the first phase, a majority of the systems will be deployed in rural libraries, with the remaining units being distributed across educational institutions," it said. These systems are designed to support AI literacy, spoken English, digital skills, competitive exam preparation, prompt engineering and Karnataka State Board learning content for students in classes six to 10. The initiative is part of a larger vision under ArivuKendra. ai and Schools.ai to deploy AI-enabled systems across 239 taluks, ensuring that rural students and youth are not left behind in the AI revolution, the statement said.I revolution, the statement said. Built on an open-source architecture and powered by a RISC-V processor, KEO enables AI applications to run locally on the device. **–PTI**

# VK Education Fair to begin today

## Get expert career guidance and chance to win laptop at event offering one-stop solution for academic planning

Students and parents seeking clarity on higher education choices should not miss the two-day VK Education Fair, which begins Thursday at Jnanajyothi Auditorium. With free entry for all visitors, the fair brings together more than 35 reputed educational institutions under one roof, offering guidance on admissions, courses, career prospects and counselling. Adding to the attraction, lucky participants have a chance to win a brand-new laptop sponsored by Saptagiri NPS University.

Higher Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil will inaugurate the event. Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) Executive Director H Prasanna will provide insights into CET counselling and seat allotment, while Bengaluru City University Vice-Chancellor Prof B Ramesh will preside over the programme. Career counsellor VL Panduranga will interact with students on Friday. The fair will feature information on engineering, medicine, architecture, nursing, diploma programmes, business management, digital marketing, MBA, BSc, BTech, robotics, tourism, MCA and several other courses. **–BMB**

VK EDUCATION FAIR 2026
A PREMIER EDUCATIONAL EVENT

**The event will be held on June 11 and 12 from 9.30 am to 5 pm at Jnanajyothi Auditorium, Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University. For details, contact 9916079232 or 9686938983.**

# Concerns raised over homestay boom

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday expressed concern over the rapid proliferation of homestays across the state, observing that inadequate regulation could pose security risks.

Justice M Nagaprasanna made the remarks while hearing a petition filed by a homestay owner seeking to quash an FIR registered in connection with the alleged rape of a US national at his property. The petitioner, who was arrested on April 19, has also sought Rs 15 lakh in compensation, alleging violation of his fundamental rights.

During the hearing, the court orally remarked that homestays had "mushroomed" to such an extent that authorities often did not know where they were located or what activities took place there, adding that public security was at risk.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Angad Kamath argued that while the alleged offence was serious, the State could not disregard the rights of the accused. He pointed to what he described as inconsistencies in the complainant's version and questioned the legality of the arrest.

Kamath submitted that CCTV footage showed the complainant moving freely and going on outings after the alleged incident. He argued that the offences attributed to the petitioner were non-cognisable and that he was not present at the homestay when the alleged rape occurred. Opposing the plea, Additional State Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesha said the prosecution was not alleging a common intention to commit rape but a common intention to destroy evidence and intimidate witnesses. After hearing both sides, the High Court reserved its orders on the petition. —BMB

IN HIGH COURT

# Framework for barrier- free access set up

In a significant move aimed at advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, the Karnataka High Court has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on universal accessibility, directing both government and private establishments to ensure barrier-free access.

The SOP applies to a wide range of spaces and services, including government offices, private buildings, hospitals, banks, educational institutions and digital platforms. It aims to create an inclusive environment by removing physical, technological and communication barriers that restrict access for persons with disabilities.

The directions came while the High Court was hearing a case concerning disability rights. The court underscored that accessibility is not merely a welfare measure but a fundamental requirement for ensuring equal participation and dignity for persons with disabilities.

Under the SOP, institutions must adopt universal design principles and make reasonable accommodations to facilitate access. —BMB

## CRIME FILES

# Ice cream tantrum ends in tragedy

A five-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her mother's live-in partner after she reportedly threw a tantrum asking for another ice cream, police officials said. The accused allegedly confessed to the crime during interrogation, investigators said.

According to police, Mohan, a real estate agent in a live-in relationship with the child's mother, Priyanka, admitted during questioning that he assaulted and smothered the child after an argument over ice cream. Investigators said the incident occurred while Priyanka was shopping in Indiranagar. Police arrested Mohan, while Priyanka remains absconding. Further investigation is underway. —BMB

# Nepalese couple held, ₹25 lakh recovered

The Amruthahalli police have arrested a Nepalese couple for allegedly stealing ₹25 lakh in cash from their employer's residence at Arkavathy Layout and recovered the entire amount within a day of the complaint. According to police, the complainant, a contractor, had withdrawn ₹25 lakh from a bank to pay wages and kept the cash in a locked cupboard. The accused, Pawan Bista alias Bhuvan and his wife Sita Bista, worked as security and domestic staff. After they went missing on May 27, police traced and arrested them the next day. —BMB

# Balcony door left open, valuables vanish

The KG Halli police have arrested a house burglary accused and recovered stolen gold and silver ornaments worth about ₹3 lakh.

A resident of HBR Layout filed a complaint on May 29, alleging that an unidentified person entered his house through an open second-floor balcony door while he was asleep and stole gold and silver ornaments from a bedroom wardrobe. During the investigation, police developed leads through informants and arrested the accused near KG Halli Railway Gate on June 4. Based on his confession, police recovered 34 grams of gold jewellery and 172 grams of silver ornaments. —BMB

# Four held, six stolen vehicles recovered

The Parappana Agrahara police arrested four interstate vehicle thieves and recovered three goods vehicles and three two-wheelers worth ₹16.50 lakh.

The case began after a G R Homes Layout resident reported on May 19 that his goods vehicle, parked outside his furniture shop in Singasandra, was stolen on the night of May 18.

Based on informant leads, police arrested three accused near Kudlu Gate on Hosur Road and another at Srirampura. The gang is linked to theft cases at Parappana Agrahara, Mico Layout and Bangarapet police stations. The further investigation is underway.—BMB

# Zoomcar booking ends in car theft

The Malleswaram police have arrested an inter-state vehicle theft accused for allegedly booking a car through the Zoomcar platform and failing to return it.

The accused, identified as Michel Shafiq, a resident of Kannur, Kerala, allegedly booked a Maruti Swift on April 22 through the Zoomcar app after completing verification formalities. Police said he failed to return the vehicle after the rental period ended and later became untraceable. Following a complaint by Syed Khadeer Pasha, police tracked and arrested him. Futher investigation is underway. —BMB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# Property tax collection: East is best, north lags

## GBA achieves 44% property tax target within two months, with East leading collections and North remaining sole corporation reporting decline

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Five corporations together oversee 21.73 lakh properties across city

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has emerged as the best performer in property tax collection, while the North City Corporation remains at the bottom of the table. By June 9, the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) five city corporations together collected ₹2,949.56 crore in property tax and other revenues, achieving 44.02% of their annual target of ₹6,700 crore for 2026-27.

The East City Corporation topped the list by collecting ₹792.51 crore, or 47.35% of its target of ₹1,673.46 crore. It was followed by the West City Corporation, which recorded a turnaround from being the worst-performing corporation during the last six months of the previous financial year to securing second place this year with collections of ₹580.17 crore, achieving 45.26% of its ₹1,281.59 crore target. The Central City Corporation stood a close third with ₹576.43 crore collected, accounting for 45.25% of its ₹1,273.78 crore target.

South City Corporation collected ₹542 crore, achieving 44.10% of its ₹1,228.85 crore target, while North City Corporation remained at the bottom with collections of ₹458.40 crore, or 36.89% of its ₹1,242.33 crore target.

Officials said strong collections were largely due to the 5% rebate offered to property owners until May 31, which encouraged early payments. Revenue has also increased since the introduction of the Solid Waste Management User Fee alongside property tax collection from the previous financial year.

**Property tax collection performance (as of June 9, 2026)**

| Corporation | Target(crore) | Collection (crore) | Achievement (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| East | 1,673.46 | 792.51 | 47.35 |
| West | 1,281.59 | 580.17 | 45.26 |
| Central | 1,273.78 | 576.43 | 45.25 |
| South | 1,228.85 | 542.00 | 44.10 |
| North | 1,242.33 | 458.40 | 36.89 |
| Total | 6,700.00 | 2,949.56 | 44.02 |

Compared to the same period last year, the five corporations improved their performance by 1.21%. East Corporation registered the highest growth at 2.57% year-on-year, followed by Central and South Corporations at 1.95% each and West Corporation at 1.66%. North Corporation was the only civic body to report a decline, with collections dropping by 2.06%.

Last year, the erstwhile BBMP set a record by collecting ₹2,424.93 crore in property tax by the end of May 2025. This year, collections had already reached ₹2,892.11 crore by the end of May.

The overall revenue target of ₹6,700 crore for 2026-27 includes ₹623 crore expected from tax arrears, while only ₹12 crore has so far been collected under other revenue heads.

According to GBA data, no coercive measures such as property attachment, auctions or sealing of properties were undertaken against tax defaulters during the first two months of the current financial year. The five corporations together oversee 21.73 lakh properties.

**Property tax collections reached ₹2,892.11 crore by May-end, surpassing last year's record pace and placing corporations on track toward revenue targets**

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### Road danger
**Tejaswini Nagar**

Exposed metal pipes jutting out from the road near Nobel Residency Road, Tejaswini Nagar, Doddakammanahalli, pose a significant safety hazard to motorists and commuters.

### Drain trouble
**Indiranagar**

A clogged stormwater drain at the junction of Paramahansa Yogananda Road and 12th Main in Indiranagar has caused water stagnation, foul odour and inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists.

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| Document Controller | Quality Assurance | Any Graduate | 01-03 Years | Senior Engineer | Stockyard Planning | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 06-09 Years |
| Senior Engineer | Production Planning | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 06-09 Years | Assistant Engineer | Stockyard Planning | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 03-05 Years |
| Assistant Engineer | Production Planning | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 03-05 Years | Senior Engineer | Precast Erection | Diploma/BE/ B.Tech-Civil | 06-09 Years |
| Senior Engineer | Production Billing | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 06-09 Years | | | | |
| Assistant Engineer | Production Billing | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 03-05 Years | Assistant Engineer | Precast Erection | Diploma/BE/ B.Tech-Civil | 03-05 Years |
| Document Controller | Production Billing | Any Graduate | 01-03 Years | | | | |
| Senior Engineer | Reinforcement | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 06-09 Years | Junior Engineer | Precast Erection | Diploma/BE/ B.Tech-Civil | 01-02 Years |
| Assistant Engineer | Reinforcement | BE/B.Tech-Civil | 03-05 Years | | | | |
| Foreman | Reinforcement | SSC/HSC | 03-10 Years | Foreman | Precast Erection | SSC/HSC | 05-10 Years |
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## State govt urged to amend statutes, make model bye-laws

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sections of the premises and clearly demarcated with separate entry and no inter-connection. The spa/massage centre services shall not be provided behind locked doors. There shall be no latch and bolt inside the doors of spa/massage centre chambers. There shall be a provision of self-closing doors. The main and external doors of the massage/spa establishment shall be either transparent or be kept open during working hours. Mandatory provision for production of ID cards of all customers shall be ensured and proper registers containing their contact details including phone numbers and ID proof shall be maintained. These centres can remain open only between 9 am and 9 pm. Proper lighting facilities shall be provided in each room or enclosure.

The applicant for the grant of licence should not have been convicted for any offence involving moral turpitude. If any criminal case under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention)Act, 1956, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, Act, 2012 or any case of nature of sexual crime is pending against the applicant or his/her employees of the spa/massage centre, his/her application for grant of licence shall be rejected.

Law Commission of Karnataka Chairman Justice Ashok B Hinchigeri told Bangalore Mirror that it was the responsibility of the Law Commission to recommend for the repeal of redundant laws or Acts and recommend suitable amendments to the existing laws. "The proposed amendments to the statutes and making the model by-laws not only ensure local bodies get some revenue but they also ensure proper monitoring of spas, massage centres and gymnasiums. Till date, there is no law to control and regulate these establishments. Manoraj Rajeeva, an advocate from Mangaluru sought the enactment of new law for the issuance of licence for controlling ayurvedic health centers, spa/massage centers, unisex, and beauty parlors," Justice Hinchigeri said.

# Mandated dog shelters still missing in B'luru

## City corporations are still reportedly in process of setting up shelters for strays, with administrative hurdles and availability of land emerging as major challenges

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

None of the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has yet established dog shelters as mandated by the Supreme Court.

The West City Corporation's shelter at Sumanahalli, with a capacity to accommodate 591 dogs, is expected to be ready only by the end of August. The East City Corporation is yet to begin construction of its proposed shelter near Mandur landfill, which is planned to house nearly 500 dogs.

"Two dog shelters are under construction to accommodate 591 dogs that will be relocated from institutional premises. Both facilities are located near Sumanahalli Circle. While one shelter is expected to become functional by the end of July, the other will be ready by the end of August," said an official from the West City Corporation.

The official added that the corporation is currently in the process of selecting an NGO to manage the shelters. "We recently floated a tender for the purpose.

However, since we received only a single bid, the tender process will have to be repeated," the official said.

The Central City Corporation's shelter at S Bingipura is expected to become operational by mid-July. Meanwhile, the North City Corporation is working on two shelter facilities with a combined capacity of 900 dogs. While the first shelter is likely to be operational by the end of June, the second is expected to take another two months to complete.

The South City Corporation is in the process of issuing a work order to an NGO that will manage a shelter with a capacity to house 100 stray dogs.

"Our tender process has been completed, and an NGO has been selected to manage the facility. We are awaiting completion of a few formalities before issuing the work order. The shelter at S Bingipura is being done in two phases to accommodate 500 dogs," a South City Corporation official told BM.

Corporation officials said the availability of land has emerged as a major bottleneck in establishing the shelters. According to the North City Corporation office, a letter was sent to the DC's office in January seeking allocation of two acres of land in Yelahanka for shelters capable of housing 901 dogs. However, frequent transfers in the Deputy Commissioner's office have delayed the process.

The East City Corporation continues to face challenges in securing land for the purpose. The corporation had earlier identified two parcels of government land, but legal disputes surrounding the sites forced it to look for alternatives.

### Process for selecting NGO to manage shelter is over, says South City Corporation official

"We have now identified a site near the Mandur landfill. However, approval from the Chief Commissioner is still pending. Once approval is granted, construction of a shelter with a capacity of 500 dogs will begin. It will take at least two months for the facility to become operational," said an official from the East City Corporation office.

Space constraints have compelled the Central City Corporation to establish its shelter at S Bingipura in South Bengaluru.

"We have selected the NGO that will manage the facility. All paperwork has been completed and we are now waiting for construction to be completed by mid-July," an official in the Central City Corporation office said.

## Road accidents claim three lives

In one of three fatal road accidents reported across Bengaluru and Hosakote, a 19-year-old Swiggy delivery executive died after reportedly losing control of his scooter and crashing into an electric pole in Ramaswamipalya under Banaswadi Traffic Police limits late Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Santosh Daniel, a resident of RS Palya. Police said Santosh, who worked as a delivery executive while pursuing his degree, was riding the scooter around 1 am along with his friend Jeevitha (21) when the mishap occurred near RKV fruit shop on the main road.

According to preliminary information, the two were travelling at high speed when Santosh reportedly lost control of the scooter, causing it to skid and both riders to fall onto the road. Passersby rushed them to a private hospital, where Santosh succumbed to injuries around 3.15 am. Jeevitha sustained minor injuries and is out of danger. Banaswadi Traffic Police have registered a case and are investigating further circumstances surrounding the accident.

In another incident, a 46-year-old, identified as Jameer Pasha from Hosakote, died after his two-wheeler was hit by a speeding goods vehicle on Karapanahalli Road along the Chintamani–Karapanahalli stretch. He was reportedly heading to buy vegetables when the collision occurred. The impact threw him onto the road, causing fatal injuries. Hosakote Traffic Police have taken up the case.

In a third incident, a 68-year-old pedestrian, Chinnagowda, died after being hit by a speeding motorcycle near Sollekoppa Circle under Nelamangala Traffic Police limits around 10 pm on Tuesday. The rider has been arrested and investigation is underway.

—BMB

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# Dream jobs turn into nightmarish cons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to secure employment quickly, making them more likely to trust attractive job offers that promise high salaries, flexible work arrangements, quick hiring, or work-from-home opportunities.

A LinkedIn mediasource report published on May 6, 2026, cited research by the Global Anti-Scam Alliance, which found that 70% of adults worldwide encounter scams every year, while 13% face scam attempts daily. According to the study, 32% of Gen Z had been exposed to job scams, while an equal percentage admitted ignoring warning signs because of pressure to find work in a competitive job market.

## How the scam works

According to Chetan Anand, these scams usually begin with fraudsters pretending to be recruiters or hiring managers. They attract job seekers by offering high salaries, easy work, work-from-home jobs, internships with good stipends, or instant hiring opportunities. Scammers often target people who have enabled the "Open to Work" feature on LinkedIn. They contact victims through the job portals' emails, or messaging services, claiming to represent reputed companies. Many candidates are told they have been selected for a job without even attending a proper interview.

Chetan Anand said one of the biggest warning signs is when candidates are asked to visit fake onboarding websites or fill out verification forms that closely resemble those used by genuine companies. He pointed out that scammers often try to make their process look legitimate. A press release by LinkedIn noted that employment scams most commonly occur during the initial contact stage, with 90% of reported cases involving attempts to move conversations away from the LinkedIn platform to other messaging apps or communication channels where safety checks and account verification become more difficult. More than half of such requests occur in the very first message, before any genuine relationship or trust has been established.

## Red flags to watch out for

"Genuine companies do not ask candidates to pay money, share bank details, buy gift cards, or transfer funds during the hiring process," Chetan Anand said.

A police official BM spoke to said, though there haven't been many reported cases of such frauds in the city recently, police have created videos to spread awareness on this.

Experts warn job seekers to be cautious of offers that promise unusually high salaries, joining bonuses, or advance payments, as these are common tactics used by scammers.

## What happens when accounts are hacked?

When a LinkedIn account is compromised, victims often lose access to their accounts because authentication codes and OTPs are sent to the scammer instead of the account owner. Another major challenge is the loss of professional information built over many years, including skills, recommendations. Even after recovering the account, some of this data may be missing. Victims can contact LinkedIn and file complaints to regain access. They can request a copy of their available LinkedIn data in a ZIP file, which can help them rebuild their profile and recover information.

# Your Connect

## tender & notices

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My client intends to enter into Joint Development with respect to the properties mentioned in the Schedule hereunder with its owners, (1) Ms. **Rhea Priyanka Allen;** (2) Mr. **Ryan Raghu Allen**, both children of Sri.Venkatappa Reddy Allen ("Owners"). The Owners represent and warrant that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and that, they have not conveyed nor have entered into any Agreement of Sale /Development Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding nor have entered into any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale / transfer / development of the Schedule Properties. The Owners further represent that they have not encumbered, mortgaged, created any charge or lien on the Schedule Properties in any manner and apart from them there are no other person/s, firm/s or company/s having any sort of right, title or claim over the Schedule Properties. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s, shall with documentary evidence, lodge their objection(s) / claim(s) within **15 (Fifteen)** days from the date of this Notice with the Undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

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**Place: Bengaluru Date: 10/06/2026**

**Sd/-**

**Sushanth J Pattanshetti, Advocate, Jayanth Pattanshetti Associates LLP**
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**"Rams Infantry Manor"**
**No. 70 Infantry Road,**
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**Phone: 9980530355**

## personal

### THANKSGIVING

**Perfect Day**
***-Moodyness***

Here I am sitting in the garden. Clouds are rolling gently across the sky, playing hide & seek with the sun, announcing the arrival of Monsoon. A nice cool breeze is making all plants & trees dance with joy. One can hear the leaves rustle, a few cars on the road and few laborers working at the building nearby. Nothing else. The sun hides behind the cloud only to reveal itself few minutes later in full glory, illuminating the entire earth. Clouds appear to slowly get thicker and darker and the breeze stronger. The perfect weather; neither hot nor cold, neither sunny nor gloomy, neither too quiet nor too loud, everything in balance. Everything is perfect! All I wish is if I could lie down on grass & hug mother earth for this perfect day. *-Srishti Modi*

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** BHARATH LAKSHMILAL JAIN (old name), S/o LAKSHMILAL JAIN MANGILAL, Residing at: No 84 Kanchan Nivas 7th Main 50 Feet Road BSK 1st Stage Hanumanth Nagar Bengaluru - 560050, have changed my name to BHARATH JAIN (new name), vide affidavit dated: 9/6/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

**I,** Yasmin Pyar Ali Bheriya R/o B7, 3rd floor, HMT 7th Avenue, Thanisandra main road, Ashwath nagar, Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Yasmin Merchant. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

**I,** KIRAN KUMAR KOTHARI S/o Arjun Lal. K Agd 50Yrs R/at 868, 15th Mn, 3rd Blk Rajajinagar, Blr-10, Hv Changed my Name as KIRAN KUMAR Vide affidavit Dt: 09-06-26 Sworn To Notary Sakalesh Blr

**I,** Maddur Kempegowda Kumar S/o Kempegowda R/o No 10/01/01, 3rd Cross, Anjaneya Swamy Layout, Ejipura, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Kempegowda Kumar for all purposes

**I** Rajesh R/o No 10 3rd flr 8th Crs Gangamma Temple Street Ashok Nagar Bsk Blore-50 Have changed my name to Ramesh Raj Shamraj

**I,** REKHA KUMARI W/o Kiran Kumar Agd 48 Yrs R/at 868, 15th Mn Rd 3rd Blk Rajajinagar, Blr-10 Hv Changed my Name as REKHA vide affidavit Dt: 09-06-26 Sworn to Notary Sakalesh Blr

**I,** Bindu Venkataraman W/o N Venkataraman R/o No 167, 3rd Cross, 4th Main BEML 10th Stage, Next to Channasandra Post Office, Channasandra Bangalore South, Bengaluru 560098. I have changed my name from Bindu H K to Bindu Venkataraman vide sworn before notary No: KA84751601976470Y S.R. Thulasikrishna dated 9.06.2026

**I,** LALRAMPANCHHUNG CHHAKCHHUAK R/A at No. 9, 9th A Main 3rd Cross Opp. Sysaid Technologies Jayaram Reddy Garden Doddabanaswadi Kalyan Nagar B'lore - 43 have changed my name to " "LALPANCHHUNGI CHHAKCHHUAK" vide affidavit dated 03/06/2026 before notary UDAY KUMAR K B'Lore.

**I,** LALITHA KUMARI RAMESH W/o Ramesh Parasmal Agd 54 yrs R/at Parkwest Apt, Mulberry C Wing, MC 704, Binnipet Blr-560023 Hv Changed my name as LALITHA KUMARI RAMESH JUGRAJ vide affidavit Dt: 09-06-26 Sworn to Notary Sakalesh Blr

**I,** MEGHA B, W/o Charan Nagesh Poojary, residing at No. 870, 2nd Main, 2nd Stage, 2nd Cross, D Block Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. I have changed my name to MEGHA CHARAN POOJARY, vide affidavit dt: 10-06-2026, before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

**I,** VARSHITHA RAMESH, W/o Shashidhar Narayanappa, residing at No. 868, 2nd Cross, D Block Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. I have changed my name to VARSHITHA SHASHIDHAR, vide affidavit dt: 10-06-2026 before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

**I,** Roopini Vignesh Sekar, w/o Vignesh Sekar, R/o Flat No-220 Aditya Green Gardens Lemon Leaf, 1st Main Kodigehalli Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560067 Have Changed My Name To Roopini Balasubramaniam For All Purposes.

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# Chai-Time

## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$(2^0 + 5^3 + 7^2) / (5^1 \times 8^0) = ?$


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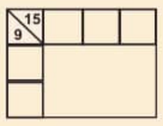
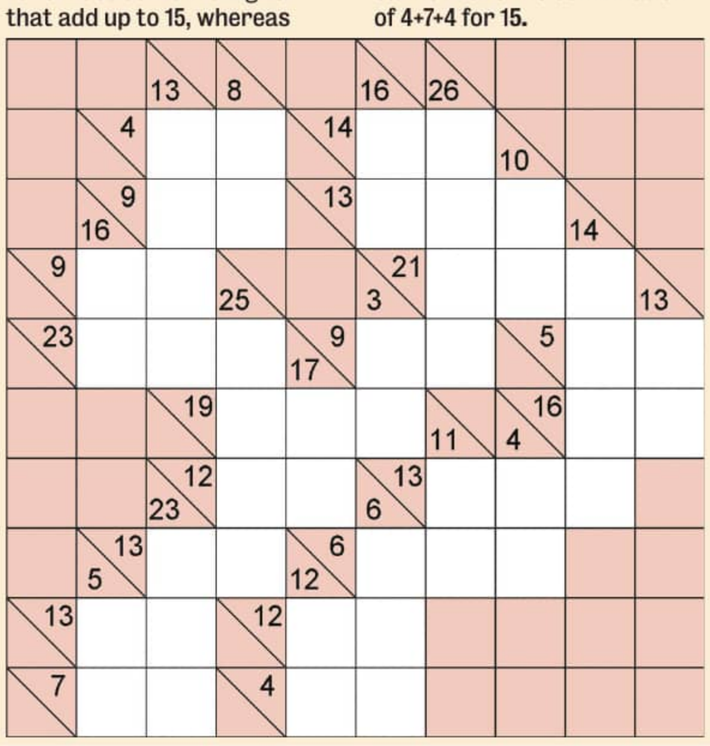
## Kakuro

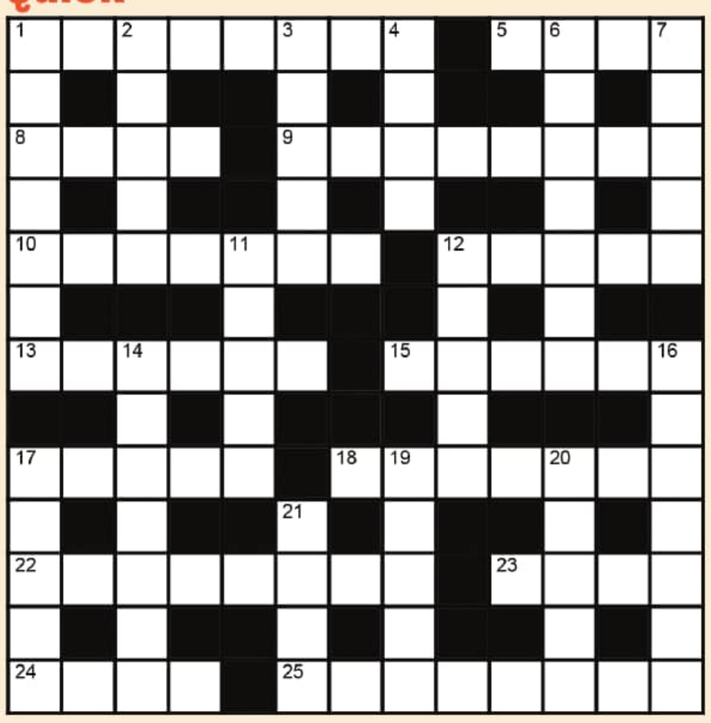
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Invite retaliation, provoke trouble (3,3,2)
5 Shout (4)
8 Skilfully (4)
9 Field Marshal K.M. ___ : first Indian C-in-C of Indian Army? (8)
10 Sleep (7)
12 Boat, artifice or skills (5)
13 Large ranch (6)
15 A false or assumed name (6)
17 Gave medicine (5)
18 Small fish of the herring family (7)
22 Woollen garments (8)
23 __ __ cost : free ? (2,2)
24 Look for (4)
25 Practise beforehand (8)

**DOWN**

1 Accumulates or piles up (7)
2 Himachal Pradesh's ___ Valley (5)
3 Title role for Sylvester Stallone (5)
4 Chance in a game (4)
6 To make clear (7)
7 Jumped (5)
11 South African antelope (5)
12 Doubter (5)
14 Uneasy or fidgety (7)
16 Centre-piece for folk dancing (7)
17 Members of English nobility (5)
19 Grammy award winning singer ___ Jones (5)
20 Aquatic beast (5)
21 A fruit (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: B EQUALS T**

BKI YGIRBIFB YJCB BKRB MST ARH YJOI BS SBKIGF JF BKI YJCB SC THASHXJBJSHRE ESOI RHX RAAIUBRHAI.

## Linemaro

Did you invent the airplane?
Because you seem wright for me

## Mindchow

When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but creatures of emotion

## Joke of the day

What happens when it rains cats and dogs?
You might step in a poodle

## Loop

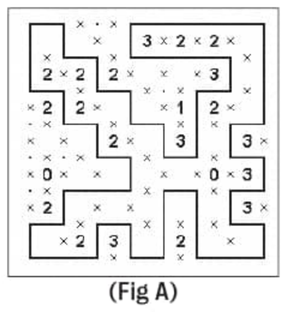
### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

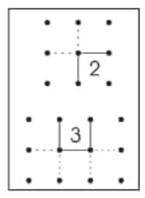
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

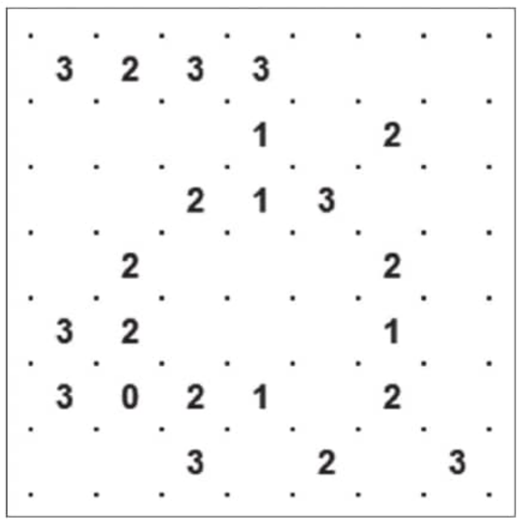
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



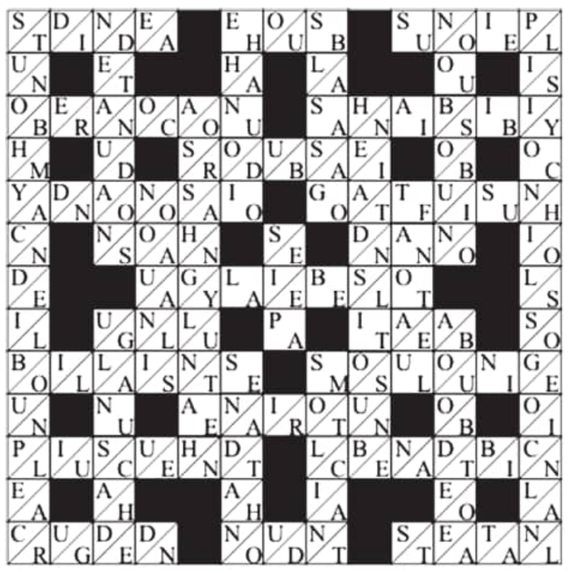
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | X | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |

**ACROSS**

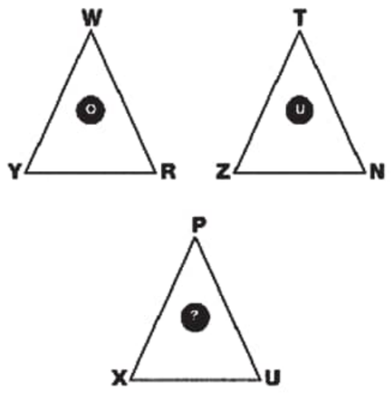
1 Sr beg; 6 Ax Ali; 7 A bull; 8 Lores; 9 He Boa

**DOWN**

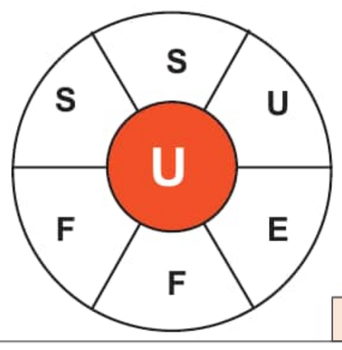
1 A boob; 2 Rubex; 3 Iller; 4 Algae; 5 S Hals

## Mensapuzzle

Which letter is missing from the bottom triangle?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**01** Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | | 7 | | 6 | | 9 | 5 |
| | | 1 | | | | 8 | | |
| 9 | | | 4 | | 2 | | | 7 |
| | 9 | | | | | | 7 | |
| | | 2 | 3 | | 8 | 4 | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | 3 | |
| 6 | | | 1 | | 4 | | | 3 |
| | | 7 | | | | 6 | | |
| 1 | 2 | | 6 | | 5 | | 4 | 9 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 19

1 3 8 9

**Medium** = 10

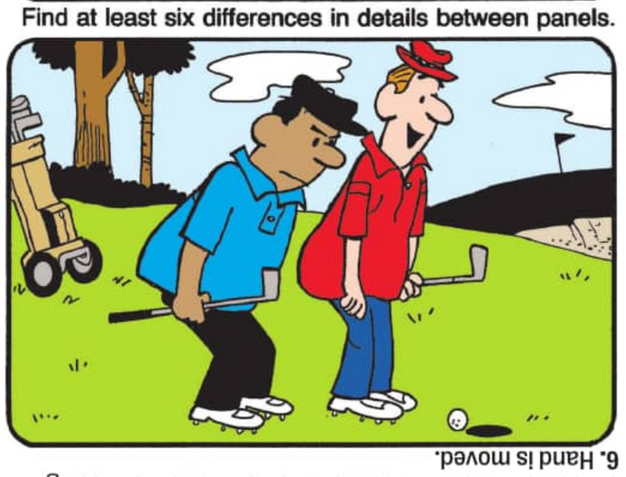
4 5 6 7

**Hard** = 12

2 2 6 8

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



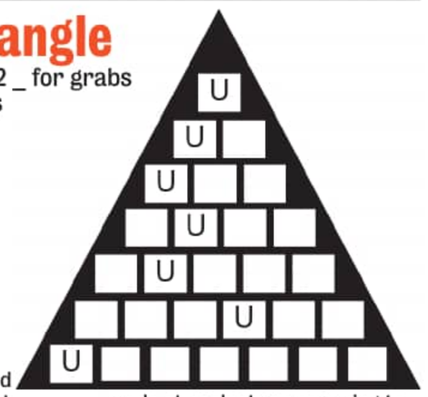
**Differences:** 1. Club is moved. 2. Golf bag is smaller. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Cloud is lower. 5. Branch is missing. 6. Hand is moved.

## Riddler

Packaged in a jar or perhaps a tub Enjoyed from Wellington to Timbuktu Although some may think I come from a nut Nutritionists would know that I do not Use me to form a delicious lunch slice Tastier yet with my fruity topper What am I?

## Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 _ for grabs
3 Unified Payments Interface abbr
4 Odisha city
5 Jewish festival
6 Contaminated
7 Referees on the cricket field




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

# COMICS

## Popeye

JUST BECAUSE I'M SMALL DOESN'T MEAN I YAM UNIMPORTANT!
SIZE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING!
BEIN' LITTLE DOESN'T MEAN I'M STUPID!
I YAM AS CAPABLE AS ANY BLASTID ADULT!
OF COURSE, A LITTLE SIZE WOULD HELP REACH THE COOKIE JAR!!
COOKIES
9-9
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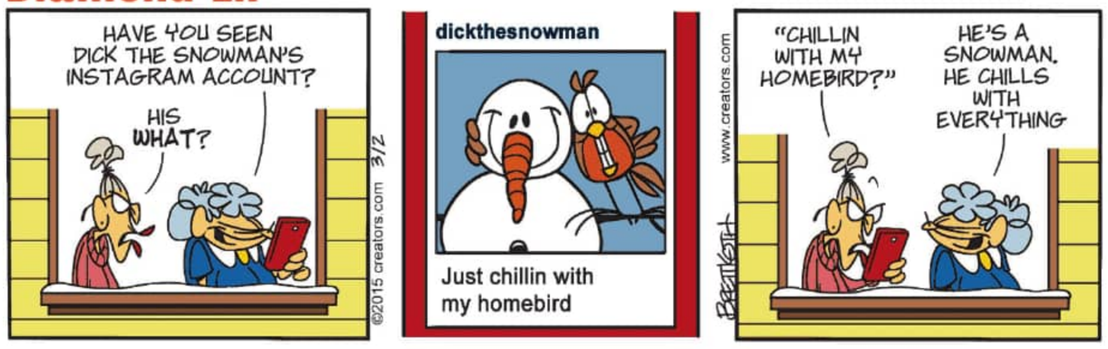
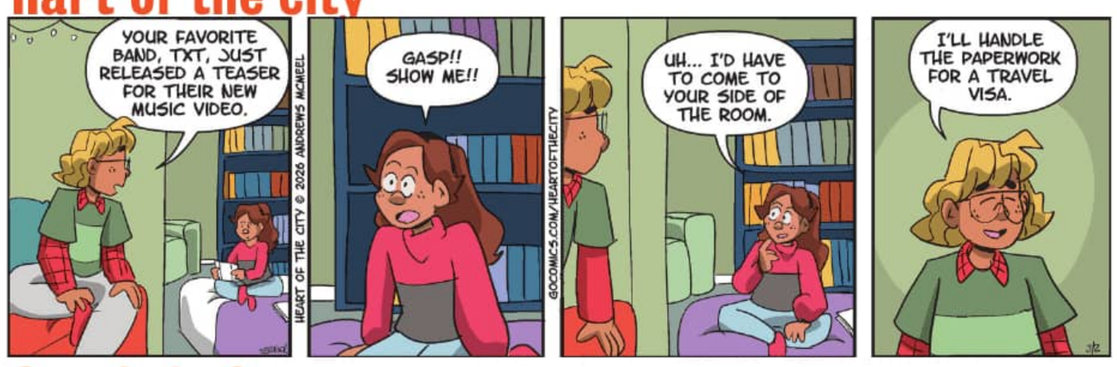
popeye.com

## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil




## Hart of the city


YOUR FAVORITE BAND, TXT, JUST RELEASED A TEASER FOR THEIR NEW MUSIC VIDEO.
GASP!! SHOW ME!!
UH... I'D HAVE TO COME TO YOUR SIDE OF THE ROOM.
I'LL HANDLE THE PAPERWORK FOR A TRAVEL VISA.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft

WHEN MY COMIC STRIPS WERE WRAPPED AND READY TO GO, I'D WALK TO THE POST OFFICE IN TOWN...
'AS I LEFT THE POST OFFICE, I'D ALWAYS BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF...'
POST OFFICE
'AND THEN GO HOME AND GET BACK TO WORK.'
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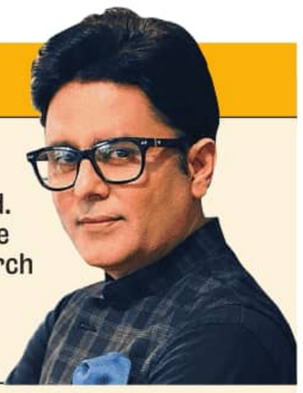
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
2-28

## Mutts

# WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



## If it's your birthday today

A thrilling romantic spark enlivens your day, whether you are single or coupled. Professionally, it is time to declutter your workspace to invite fresh, innovative ideas. A savvy investment opportunity arises through a trusted friend; research it thoroughly before committing. Keep your respiratory health in check by seeking clean, fresh air and practicing deep, conscious breathing exercises.

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Your imagination may run ahead of reality today, creating unnecessary worries and confusion. Focus only on what truly needs attention right now. Staying present and grounded helps you maintain peace, clarity, and confidence beautifully.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Avoid signing important agreements or contracts today, as overlooked details may create complications later. Instead, focus on existing responsibilities and unfinished tasks. Patience and careful timing help protect your future interests and stability.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Feelings of loneliness may simply reflect busy schedules rather than distant friendships today. Reaching out warmly reconnects you with loved ones easily. Planning time together reminds you how valued and appreciated you truly are.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Practical thinking serves you especially well today when making important choices or decisions. Take time to examine situations carefully from every angle first. Balanced reasoning and patience help guide you toward the best outcomes.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Trusted friends and familiar connections bring the greatest comfort and support today. While new relationships seem exciting, relying on loyal people helps you feel secure and understood. Your instincts guide you toward genuine connections.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Someone close may offer advice or protection today with your wellbeing genuinely in mind. Instead of resisting their concern, listen carefully and stay open-minded. Their guidance could help you avoid unnecessary complications or mistakes.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today encourages giving others space to handle their own situations independently. While your intentions come from care and support, avoiding unnecessary involvement keeps relationships balanced. Simply being available emotionally is more than enough today.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Insecurities may make you feel misunderstood today, though these fears are far from reality. People genuinely appreciate your presence, talents, and efforts. Trust yourself more confidently and allow reassurance to replace unnecessary doubt completely.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Someone may try taking advantage of your trusting nature today, making careful judgment especially important. Think through decisions slowly and observe people's intentions clearly. Staying alert protects your energy, confidence, and emotional wellbeing beautifully now.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today strongly supports applications, certifications, or educational opportunities connected to your future ambitions. Your intelligence and dedication leave lasting impressions easily. Expressing your interests clearly helps attract exciting opportunities and meaningful professional growth ahead.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your natural energy already feels high today, making balance and calmness especially important. Nourishing your body thoughtfully and avoiding excess helps maintain focus beautifully. Healthy choices support clarity, productivity, and emotional steadiness throughout the day.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Conserving your energy today proves wiser than tackling difficult problems immediately. Focus on simple responsibilities and avoid unnecessary stress wherever possible. Resting strategically now prepares you to handle busier moments later with greater strength.

www.sundeepkochar.com

# KIDZONE

Sana Prabhu, 8 Years, Cluny Convent High School

Sindhu L Nalwar, 11 Years, Sri Chaitanya Techno School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
= (1 + 125 + 49)/(5 × 1)
= 175/5 = 35

**BULL'S EYE**
fuse, fuss, SUFFUSE

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | I | D | E | | H | U | B | | S | N | I | P | | |
| U | | E | | | A | | U | | | S | | | | |
| B | E | A | C | O | N | | S | H | A | B | B | Y | | |
| M | D | | R | O | U | S | E | | B | | C | | | |
| A | D | O | N | A | I | | O | A | F | I | S | H | | |
| N | | N | O | N | | S | | D | A | N | | O | | |
| D | | U | G | L | I | E | S | T | | | | L | | |
| I | | G | N | U | | P | | T | A | B | | O | | |
| R | U | E | D | | N | U | N | | T | E | A | L | | |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | E | R | G | S |
| A | X | I | A | L |
| B | U | L | E | S |
| O | R | L | E | S |
| O | B | E | A | H |

Peanut butter

**RIDDLER**

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | E | K | | R | E | H | E | A | R | S | E | | |
| E | | | V | | A | | | E | | | | L | | |
| K | N | I | T | W | E | A | R | | A | T | N | O | | |
| U | | | T | | P | | O | | | T | | P | | |
| D | O | S | E | D | | A | N | C | H | O | V | Y | | |
| | | | E | | N | | I | | | | | A | | |
| S | P | R | E | A | D | | A | N | O | N | Y | M | | |
| E | | | L | | | | Y | | I | | | | | |
| S | H | U | T | E | Y | E | | C | R | A | F | T | | |
| S | | L | | K | | N | | L | | | | P | | |
| A | B | L | Y | | C | A | R | I | A | P | P | A | | |
| M | | U | | O | | U | | | X | | | E | | |
| A | S | K | F | O | R | I | T | | Y | E | L | L | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
T. Add the reverse alphabetical values of the three letters around each triangle to give the middle letter in forwards alphabetical order.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
The greatest gift that you can give to others is the gift of unconditional love and acceptance.

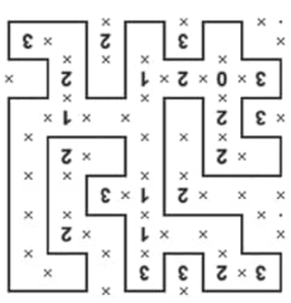
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 |

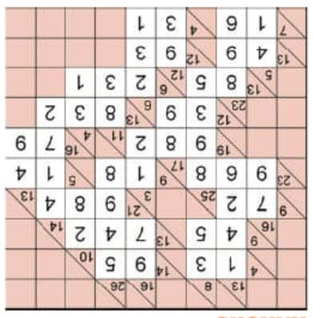
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
U, Up, UPl, Purl, Purlm, Impure, Umpires.

**GO FIGURE**
8 + 9 − 1 + 3 = 19
Medium
7 + 4 − 6 + 5 = 10
Hard
8 × 2 + 2 − 6 = 12

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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**# Swift steals spotlight**
Taylor Swift stunned fans with a surprise appearance and live performance at the Toy Story 5 premiere in Los Angeles on June 9

## SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

### Ambara Gudda hits screens

Ambara Gudda, meant a children's movie but got a UA certificate from Censor Board, is scheduled to arrive in theatres on June 26. The movie's trailer was unveiled at SRV Preview Theatre in Malleswaram on Sunday. Vishnu Teja played a key role apart from directing the film. "Ambara Gudda is a children's movie. It is about children's bravery but the Central Board of Film Certification issued a UA certificate instead of issuing a U certificate. I tried my best to convince the members of the Censor Board but in vain. They objected to the action scenes. Is it wrong to have action scenes in a movie that is based on bravery of children?" asks Vishnu Teja.

Teja also recalled how he struggled to get a certificate from the Animal Welfare Board of India. "The AWBI officials delayed issuing the certificate for more than two months. I used a few animals and shooting was held at Bannerghatta National Park. The delay in getting the certificate from the AWBI had delayed the certificate from the Censor Board," he said.

The trailer follows a group of children on a trekking expedition and the challenges they face. The film stars Tanisha Gowda, Kushi Gowda, Geetha, Chandru and Ganesh.

### Poster launch delight



The team of forthcoming Kannada movie Geek is excited about the appreciation and moral support it received from Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar. The team had sent the teaser of the movie, which more than 50 celebrities released, to Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar. She recently unveiled the film's poster and appreciated the team's creativity and hard work while wishing them success.

"I am very happy to get appreciation from Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar. She released the poster of the movie at PRK office in Gandhinagar. It made the entire team happy and motivated. Many people have appreciated the movie's teaser that was released last month," said director Hari Prakash.

"It's my maiden feature movie. Real incidents inspired me to write the script. It focuses on the misuse of data while using many apps on our mobile phones. It belongs to the suspense thriller genre. We are now busy with post-production works and have engaged experienced technicians," he said.

The movie features Praveen Tej, Chaitra Achar, Kiran Srinivas and Viranika Shetty. The shooting took place in and around Bengaluru. The film is jointly backed by Sandeep Nagaraj and Priyanka under SVM Productions and Hariprakash Films.

# Katrina's next chapter

## Actress reviews scripts, explores streaming projects after embracing motherhood

Actor Katrina Kaif is reportedly preparing to return to the spotlight after embracing motherhood, with her next venture possibly in the digital space. According to a recent report, the actress has begun reviewing scripts again and is being selective about the projects she chooses for her comeback.

According to a source, scripts have once again begun to be reviewed by Katrina Kaif following her recent embrace of motherhood. A return to film sets in the second half of 2027 is reportedly being planned, and the search for a suitable script is said to be underway. Interest is also believed to be being shown in streaming projects that could offer greater opportunities for actors.

If discussions progress, the project would mark Katrina's first foray into the streaming world. While many Bollywood stars have balanced theatrical releases with OTT content, Katrina has yet to headline a long-format digital series or film.

The source added that the actress is taking her time before committing to a new project, prioritising stories and characters that align with her current phase of life as both an artist and a mother. Katrina was last seen in Merry Christmas (2024), opposite Vijay Sethupathi. —Etimes

# Speaking legalese

From horror-comedies and slice-of-life dramas to socially relevant stories, Rajkummar Rao has consistently chosen roles that challenge him as an actor. The performer is now gearing up for yet another intriguing project, one inspired by a figure who played a significant role in some of India's most high-profile legal battles.

Rajkummar Rao will lead Prahaar – The Ujjwal Nikam Story, a project backed by Maddock Films. The film, directed by Avinash Arun, is reportedly eyeing an August 7, 2026, theatrical release. Wamiqa Gabbi, Sikander Kher and Jaideep Ahlawat are also expected to play pivotal roles.

While the makers have yet to officially reveal details about the film, the title suggests that the story draws inspiration from the life and career of renowned public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam. The narrative is expected to explore themes of justice, determination and legal battles that left a lasting impact on the country.

The project marks another collaboration between Rajkummar Rao and Maddock Films. Their successful partnership includes films such as Stree, Made in China, Roohi and Hum Do Hamare Do. Their association reached a new high with the blockbuster success of Stree 2.

The film will also reunite Rao with Wamiqa Gabbi after their recent collaboration on Bhool Chuk Maaf, adding to anticipation surrounding the project. — Etimes

### Janhvi goes silent

The makers of the Ram Charan starrer 'Peddi', directed by Buchi Babu Sana, held a success meet as the film continues to enjoy roaring success at the box office. However, the film's female lead, Janhvi Kapoor, was missing from the event amid backlash over her character's portrayal in the film.

Her absence quickly became a talking point online. Janhvi stayed away from the event and made no public comments about her decision.

At the success meet in Hyderabad, Ram Charan interacted with the audience and thanked them for their love and support for the film.

Jagapathi Babu and other cast members attended the event. Despite speculation, Janhvi Kapoor actively promoted the film before release. Following criticism of her portrayal, she went inactive on social media, while the makers apologised and announced cuts to the disputed scenes. — Etimes

### Slim pickings

Ariana Grande officially kicked off her highly anticipated 'Eternal Sunshine' tour over the weekend, delivering an emotional opening-night performance filled with powerhouse vocals and belted-out fan-favourite hits. However, images and videos from the opening show sparked concern among some fans online. While many praised Ariana Grande's performance, others questioned her slimmer appearance and wellbeing.

Some expressed worries about the physical demands of a global tour, while others compared her appearance to late singer Karen Carpenter. Supporters, however, criticised the body-shaming remarks and noted that Grande has previously said she feels healthier now. — Etimes